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Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X REPORT

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25X1

1. Czechoslovakian Oil Fields in Hodonin (Goeding)

a. History and organization:

- (1) Name and designation:

Czechoslovakian Mineral Oil Fields, National Corporation, in Hodonin
(P 49/S 87) (Čes. naftové závody, národní podnik, centrální ředitelství
Hodonin).

- (2) The Czechoslovakian oil fields are combined in a national enterprise.

- (a) General manager: Engineer Josef Stracanek

- (b) In charge of security: Josef Vadura.

- (c) Production chiefs Konut

- (3) The Central Management, comprised of all Czechoslovakian oil fields, is controlled by the General Management of Czechoslovakian Mines, National Corporation in Prague.

- (4) The Central Management of Czechoslovakian Oil Fields was established in Staly (P 49/S 85) in 1913 and remained there, during the largest oil occurrences, until 1945, when it was moved to Hodonin (Goeding).

The Czechoslovakian oil fields were under German control from 1940 to 1945. They were considerably improved during this time.

- (5) Oil fields combined under the Central Management:

- (2) Obely (Clovnia) oil field

- (b) Stepanov (P 49/S 95) Oil Field, a branch of the Gubly Oil Field.

- (c) Exploratory oil field in Lab (P 49/S 11), Slovakia

25X1

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- (d) Hodonin (Moravia) Oil Field
- (e) Ruzice (P 49/S 16) (Moravia) Oil Field
- (f) Bilovice (P 49/S 76) (Moravia) Oil Field
- (g) Braclov (Lundenburg) (P 49/S 75) (Moravia) Oil Field

b. Production and capacity:

(1) Personnel of the Central Management:

About 50 employees including five Slovaks.

(2) Production:

(a) The crude oil produced in the Stepanov Oil Fields has a gasoline content of 15 percent. All remaining oil fields produce crude oil without gasoline content.

(b) The average annual production of all oil fields of the Central Management was 35,000 tons of crude oil in 1947 and 1948 (Sbohy and Stepanov oil fields 27,000 tons and the Moravian oil fields 8,000 tons).

(3) Shipments:

(a) The Moravian oil production was shipped to the Pardubice (O 51/X 79) Refinery.

(b) The Slovakian Sbohy and Stepanov oil production was shipped to the Apollo Refinery in Pressburg (Bratislava) (P 49/X 99) and the Babova Refinery in Nitra (P 49/T 62).

(4) New supply of drilling equipment:

The Soviet Union supplied new drilling equipment to the Central Management in early 1949. The Central Management had to pay 20 million Czech kronen for each drilling plant. However, these plants were without drills and therefore could not be used and are stored in Hodonin.

(5) The Central Management closed with a deficit in recent years. State subsidies have to be granted to finance exploratory drillings and the purchase of machinery.

(6) Forty percent of the Two-Year Plan quota was fulfilled in 1947 and 1948.

c. Scheduled production increase:

A "socialist contest," serving the administrative council, was organized to urge constantly the Managements of the different oil fields to higher production. However, these efforts will be in vain as the existing installations and drilling sites do not promise better results.

d. Soviet influence:

(1) Soviet personnel in the Central Management:

25X1

Engineer Bekhovcov

25X1

Geologist Dr. Itsayev

25X1

Drilling foreman Petrov

25X1

SECRET

3
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

(2) Agreement between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union on the assignment of Soviet experts:

According to an agreement concluded in early 1949 the Soviet Union will send 10 experts for crude oil production. So far only three (mentioned in para 1d (1)) have arrived. Seven more are expected to come. Czechoslovakia agreed to pay the following allowances:

(a) Payment to the Soviet Union: 450 English pounds monthly for an engineer or geologist, 350 English pounds monthly for a drilling foreman.

(b) Salaries for the experts.

Each expert will receive 17,000 Czech kronen monthly. A furnished apartment will also be allocated to each Soviet expert.

(3) So far the Soviet experts have not been active. According to information of the Central management the arrival of the remaining experts is eagerly awaited.

(4) Three Czech experts went to the Soviet Union at the end of April 1949 on the invitation of a Soviet agency. They spent three months studying Soviet conditions. When they arrived in Moscow they were taken sightseeing in the Soviet capital for one month. They then went to Rostov for two months. They took daily rides to the Rostov oil fields where they could see Soviet working methods. According to a remark made by one of the experts, no new knowledge has been gained.

2. Obely Oil field with its Stepanov branch.

a. History and organization:

(1) Designation:

Czechoslovakian Oil Industry, National Enterprise, Obely Oil Field (Obel'ne naftove zavody, narodny podnik, zavod Obely)

(2) The Obely and Stepanov oil fields are subsidiary installations of the National Enterprise. The Obel' Oil Field is designated oil-producing area No 1.

(3) Management:

(a) Manager: Engineer Chojka

(b) Technical manager: Engineer Casnarek

(c) Research manager: Engineer Pekar

(4) History and development:

(a) The Obely oil production started in 1913 in the vicinity of the Obely Bane railroad station. It was under state control from the first and was leased to Germany from 1940 to 1945. After 80 percent of the oil resources in the immediate vicinity of Obely were exhausted, new drillings were started north of Obely where the present Obely oil-producing installations have been established. The old Obely Bane oil field was abandoned; only old equipment, sheds, etc. remained.

25X1

SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

The Central Management of the Czechoslovakian Oil fields was in Gbely until 1945 when it was shifted to Hodonin. During World War II a new building for the Central Management was constructed opposite the Gbely railroad station. Since the Central Management moved out, it is used as administration building of the Gbely installations.

(b) Stepanov Branch: It is about 5 km southeast of Gbely and was expanded after 1942. It is the only oil field producing crude oil with 15 percent gasoline content.

(c) Prospecting activities: The Gbely administration started exploratory drillings between Lab and Plavecky Stvrtock (about 40 km south of Gbely).

b. Oil-producing installations:

(1) Gbely oil production:

(a) Close to the Gbely Bane railroad station is the original Gbely oil field which has been abandoned. The new oil field is north of Gbely (see Annex).

(b) Number of wells: 170 productive wells were in operation in the new oil field north of Gbely at the end of August 1949.

(c) Traffic facilities: Highways lead to the oil field. The railroad station is at Gbely, about 2 km west of the village. The crude oil is conducted there through a pipe line.

(2) Stepanov oil production:

(a) Location: The Stepanov oil field is northwest of Stepanov, about 6 km southwest of Gbely (see Annex).

(b) Number of wells: 40 productive wells were in operation at the end of August 1949.

(c) Traffic facilities: Highways lead to the Stepanov region. The produced oil is pumped through a pipe line to the Gbely railroad station. Workmen living in nearby localities travel by rail to the Gbely and Gbely Bane railroad stations from where they are trucked to the oil field.

(3) Lab exploratory field.

Location: Between Lab and Plavecky Stvrtock, about 40 km south of Gbely, west of the Pressburg-Luty railroad line.

c. Production and capacity:

(1) Power supply:

The oil-producing installations are operated by electric power but no local power stations exist. Power is supplied mainly by the western Slovakian power stations and a small part by the power stations in Moravia.

(2) Work force:

About 1,000 men are employed in Gbely and the Stepanov branch. Workmen must be at least 18 years old.

(3) Working time:

Work in all Czechoslovakian oil-producing installations is done in three eight-hour shifts.

25X1

SECRET

5
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

(4) Kind of production:

(a) Crude oil without gasoline content is produced in the Obely Oil field. The following products are processed in the refineries from this crude oil:

Diesel fuel
Machine oil, vaseline
Petroleum.

(b) Stepanov branch: Crude oil with a gasoline content of 15 percent is produced in Stepanov.

(5) The annual production of Obely and Stepanov was 27,000 tons in 1947 and 1948. At present, the Stepanov daily output averages $1\frac{1}{2}$ tank cars.

(6) Exploratory drillings:

At present, exploratory drillings are started in the Obely, Stepanov, Lab and Plavecky areas. **The Lab and Plavecky drillings are progressing successfully,** having reached a depth of 1,600 meters. The drilling period of one well averages one year and costs 10 million Czech kronas.

(7) Scheduled drillings:

Further drillings are planned in the Obely and Stepanov areas and in the vicinity of Gajary (northwest of Malacky and Brodske (about 9 km southwest of Obely)).

(8) Technical improvements:

In recent years the open oil channels leading from the Obely and Stepanov oil wells to the cisterns at the Obely railroad station were replaced by pipe lines provided with pumping installations.

(9) Oil shipments:

The crude oil is directly conducted from the pipe line into the tank cars at the Obely railroad station. The shipments leave for the Apollo refinery in Pressburg and the Dubova Refinery in Nitra. If no tank car is available the crude oil is temporarily stored in the cisterns at the Obely railroad station.

The rapid dispatch of the crude oil to the refineries is constantly urged by the Central Management in Moscow.

Annex: Czechoslovakian Oilfields

25X1

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